without weighing: and yet, In some respects, I grant, I cannot go, I cannot tell[8]: Virtue is of so little regard in these coster-monger times[9], that true valour is turned bear-herd: Pregnancy[1] is made a tapster, and hath his quick wit wasted in giving reckonings: all the other gifts appertinent to man, as the malice of this age shapes them, are not worth a gooseberry. You, that are old, consider not the capacities of us that are young: you measure the heat of our livers with the bitterness of your galls: and we that are in the vaward of our youth, I must confess, are wags too.

CH. JUST. Do you set down your name in the scroll of youth, that are written down old with all the characters of age? Have you not a moist eye? a dry hand? a yellow cheek? a white beard? a decreasing leg? an increasing belly? Is not your voice broken? your wind short? your chin double? your wit single[2]? and every part about you blasted

8 — i cannot GO, I cannot TELL :] I cannot be taken in a reckoning; I cannot pass current. JOHNSON

Mr Gifford, in a note on Jonson's Every Man in his Humour, vol. i. p. 125, objects to this explanation. "I *cannot tell* (he observes) means *I cannot tell what to think of it*, and nothing more." The phrase with that signification was certainly common: but, as it will also bear the sense which Dr Johnson has assigned to it, his interpretation appears to me to suit the context better. Let the reader judge. BOSWELL

9 — in these COSTER-MONGER times,] In these times when the prevalence of trade has produced that meanness that rates the merit of every thing by money. JOHNSON

A *coster-monger* is a *costard-monger*, a

dealer in apples called by that name because they are shaped like a *costard* i. e. man's head. See vol. iv. p. 327, n. 6; and p. 830. "• 2 STEEVENS.

* — Pregnancy — *Pregnancy* is *readiness*. So, in Hamlet: "How *pregnant* his replies are?" STEEVENS.

[a] — your wit single?] We call a man single-witted who attains but one species of knowledge. This sense I know not how to apply to Falstaff, and rather think that the Chief Justice hints at a calamity always incident to a grey-haired wit whose misfortune is that his merriment is unfashionable. His allusions are